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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ANNAPOLIS WOMAN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR
MEDICARE BILLING SCHEME**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that L. Jeanne Fryer, age 61, formerly of Annapolis, Maryland, was sentenced to 15 months of imprisonment on June 18, 2003 by United States District Chief Judge Benson E. Legg, on charges that Fryer engaged in a scheme to defraud Medicare by submitting bills totaling \$152,339 for physical therapy services that were never rendered to patients. Ms. Fryer was also sentenced to a term of three years of supervised release following prison, and was required to pay over \$100,000 in restitution to the Medicare program.

According to facts presented in court at the time of her plea on March 14, 2003, Fryer was the sole owner of the Centers for Neuro-Rehabilitation, Inc. ("CNR"), a company that provided health care services to patients suffering from brain injuries. CNR was located in Annapolis, Maryland and also had a facility in Bethesda, Maryland. CNR serviced various types of patients, including long-term care patients who had little or no chance of living on their own due to their brain injuries. These patients, known as "supported living patients," resided in CNR facilities and received daily care and services.

Fryer, who falsely held herself out as having a Ph.D. to increase her reimbursement, engaged in a scheme to defraud Medicare by submitting, and causing to be submitted, bills for physical therapy services that were never rendered to five different supported living patients between 1999 and December 2000. In particular, Fryer prepared weekly billing sheets that falsely recorded, by date and amount, physical therapy services that were allegedly provided to those patients. Fryer then gave the billing sheets to CNR office personnel and directed the personnel to use them to prepare claims for Medicare, seeking payment for the physical therapy services which had not been provided. In all, CNR submitted false claims for physical therapy services that totaled \$152,339, of which Medicare paid CNR \$128,858.88.

The case was jointly investigated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen O. Gavin.